

# **California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley**

**Friday, March 10, 2006**

**Visalia Convention Center**

**303 East Acequia Avenue, Visalia, CA 93291**

**Board Meeting: 8:30 AM – 9:30 AM**

**Public Forum for Tulare County: 9:30 AM – Noon**

**Local Officials Roundtable: Noon – 2:00 PM**

– Summary of Meeting Proceedings –

Board Meeting

Friday, March 10, 2006

## **I. Call to Order**

Secretary Sunne Wright McPeak welcomed attendees and called the meeting of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley to order at the UC Merced Center, University Square, Bakersfield at 9:40 AM.

She introduced Rosario Marin, the new Secretary of State and Consumer Services Agency, as a new member of the Partnership Board.

She introduced Deputy Co-Chairs Fritz Grupe and Supervisor Connie Conway who also made welcoming remarks. Supervisor Ray Watson was introduced and welcomed attendees to Bakersfield on behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors.

Self introductions of those attending followed.

## **II. Approval of Minutes from the December 9, 2005 Meeting**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes the December 9, 2005 as provided. Secretary McPeak noted no objection and the motion passed by consensus.

## **III. Discussion of the Revised Vision Statement**

Copies of the revised vision statement for the Partnership were distributed. After a brief review a motion was made and seconded to approve the vision statement as revised. Secretary McPeak noted no objection and the motion passed by consensus. The revised vision statement is as follows:

*The San Joaquin Valley will be a cohesive region composed of unique communities and a diverse population that is supported by a vibrant economy built on competitive strengths and sufficient resources to provide a high quality of life for all residents now and in the future.*

*This vision can best be achieved through public-private collaboration integrating actions and investments into a coherent strategy that commits immediate and sustained leadership to accomplishing specific objectives that moves towards accomplishing long-term goals.*

#### **IV. Briefing on the Governor's Strategic Growth Plan and Proposed Budget**

Copies of the Governor's Strategic Growth Plan and proposed budget were distributed. Agency secretaries and spokespersons for involved state departments provided information on elements of the Plan and budget. Discussion followed.

#### **V. Discussion of the Final Strategic Action Proposal**

Secretary McPeak presented an outline of the final report for the Strategic Action Proposal that is to be submitted to the Governor from the Partnership by November. The goal is to give an overview and summary of the issues in each county, and using a similar structure provide information on the region as a whole. A template will be prepared by the Great Valley Center and provided at the next quarterly meeting in June. Also, in order to look at overlapping issues a conference call will be scheduled with all the conveners for the Work Groups before the next Partnership meeting to discuss areas of collaboration between Work Groups.

The outline was accepted as a working document and amended (see attached amended outline) to include an overview of the socio-economic demographics of each county and the San Joaquin Valley as a region in comparison to the state and nation.

#### **VI. Reports from the Work Groups**

##### Economic Development Work Group

Supervisor Jeff Grover reported on behalf of the Economic Development Work Group. Their concentration is in the areas of innovation and entrepreneurship development, competitiveness of target industries (health care, manufacturing and food processing), market development for renewable energy, streamlining the local planning and permitting processes and providing capital incentives and influencing state policy. At the December Partnership meeting the Work Group announced an application for a WIRED (Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development) grant to the US Department of Labor for \$5 million. Unfortunately, this application was not successful. However, the process provided valuable feedback for the future.

##### Higher Education and Workforce Development Work Group

Supervisor Jeff Grover reported on behalf of Larry Fortune for the Work Group. The Higher Education Work Group emphasis is on developing expanded vocational training, increasing college attainment levels, providing increased access to baccalaureate education, and focusing on health care and medical education. The challenge is to provide for actual jobs created by existing local employers.

### Transportation and Telecommunications Work Groups

Ray Dezember reported for the Transportation and Telecommunications Work Groups. Consensus on proceeding with interstate designation for Highway 99 was reached through negotiations with all eight SJV Councils of Government. Caltrans will develop a timeline for internal work to “cluster” design exceptions and will present recommendations to the Work Group at a future meeting. The pilot projects at the Tipton and Turlock rest areas including wireless internet access, wireless kiosks, and a web portal displaying regional tourism information are scheduled to open within 60 days. The design competition for the GreenStop©, a sustainable, green, context-sensitive design has attracted more than 160 national and international competitors. The entry period closes mid-April with the jury making their award-winning selections from the finalists on May 10<sup>th</sup> during the Great Valley Center’s annual conference.

The Work Group requested that the Partnership Board support a resolution on short sea shipping and a \$1 billion for improvements to Highway 99. Members of the Governor’s cabinet and their representatives recused themselves from the discussion and motion that followed.

*Resolved that the Board request Business, Transportation, and Housing, the Air Resources Board, and other appropriate state agencies and commissions support further study of “Short Sea Shipping” to determine if/how it might contribute to the economic, environmental, and transportation needs of the San Joaquin Valley.*

A motion was made to approve the transportation work group resolution on Short Sea Shipping. Chairman Grupe noted no objection and the motion passed by consensus:

*Resolved that the Board request the \$1 billion of funding for Highway 99 currently in the Governor’s proposed infrastructure bond be moved to the section inclusive of projects of statewide importance. It is also recommended the request underscore the importance of responsive, responsible oversight of allocation of bond proceeds.*

An amendment was requested to include a request that CEQA exemptions be considered for safety improvements.

A motion was made to approve the transportation work group resolution on Highway 99 funding as amended. Chairman Grupe noted no objection and the motion passed by consensus.

### Land Use, Housing and Agriculture Work Group

Supervisor Victor Mow reported for the Land Use, Housing and Agriculture Work Group. Working with GIS maps developed by the Information Center for the Environment, the group has evaluated several models for urban development alternatives for the region. The maps, population projections and other data will be available on the Great Valley Center website ([www.greatvalley.org](http://www.greatvalley.org))

### Health and Human Services Work Group

Fritz Grupe reported on behalf of the Health and Human Services Work Group. The group has formulated a new vision statement: *San Joaquin Valley residents will have the opportunity to enjoy a high quality of life as measured by timely access to necessary health care and social*

*services, an environment that supports healthy lifestyles, and safe, nurturing communities that embrace the cultural diversity of the region.*

Meetings with the county health directors and county welfare directors are planned. They are looking at ways to reduce the amount of paperwork currently required to get uninsured children into the system.

#### K – 12 Education Work Group

Mayor Alan Autry reported for the K-12 Education Work Group. The Group has met with all county superintendents and is relying on them to communicate with district superintendents in each county. The focus is on improving the quality of teachers through continued professional development and a unified framework for intervention when schools are not progressing.

At the end of Mayor Autry's report Secretary McPeak noted that Work Groups had individually identified a great deal of current legislation that impacted priority items being studied by the Partnership. She requested that the Partnership work with the Valley legislative delegation to compile a comprehensive list of all legislation relative to Partnership work.

Attached are the written Work Group reports submitted by the conveners.

## **VII. Discussion on Selected Work Groups**

#### Air Quality and Environmental Protection Work Group

Pete Weber reported on behalf of the Air Quality and Environmental Protection Work Group. More than 70 individuals are now involved with the group. The main focus of the group is finding ways to reach the 2013 air quality goals set by the federal government. Mr. Weber reported that the issue is not technology; air mitigation technologies exist; however, affordability of these technologies is an issue for most businesses. Recommendations on increasing affordability include establishment of a Valley-Wide Air Quality Enterprise Zone, acceleration of the gross-polluting vehicle replacement program, retrofitting diesel engines to run cleaner, and a reevaluation of mass transit options for the Valley are included in a 200-page report that the Work Group is preparing.

Fritz Grupe presided as Chair during the discussion that followed, which centered on actions requested of the Legislature and Administration that could be supported by the Partnership Board in conjunction with their recommendations. All members of the Governor's cabinet and their representatives recused themselves from the discussion.

Two documents were distributed: A resolution supporting the establishment of Air Quality Mitigation Zones and a resolution supporting a low income reimbursement for the retirement of old vehicles.

Members of the Governor's cabinet and their representatives recused themselves from the discussion and motion that followed. Following discussion, a motion was made to support the following resolution to the establishment of Air Quality Mitigation Zones:

*Resolved that the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley support the concept of creating Air Quality Mitigation Zones (AQMZ) in economically disadvantaged areas within California air basins with non-attainment designations for particulates of PM 2.5 and/or PM 10 and non-attainment designations, using the 8-hour ozone rule, of serious, severe or extreme.*

The purpose of such AQMZs will be to provide financial incentives to incent capital expenditures, based on specified criteria, in: (a) early adoption of technologies to reduce stationary and mobile source emissions; and (b) development, production and use of clean energy technologies. Financial incentives would include state income tax credits, accelerated depreciation, low-and-zero interest loans and loan guarantees. Designations would be made by the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency. Certification of non-attainment would be made by the relevant Air District, which also would be responsible for program monitoring and verification of compliance with program goals. AWEZ designation would be for a period of seven years and may be renewed subject to reapplication.

Members of the Governor's cabinet and their representatives recused themselves from the discussion and motion that followed. Chairman Grupe noted no objection and the motion passed by consensus.

Discussion of low income reimbursement for retired vehicles followed. A motion was made to support the following resolution to initiate a pilot project for low income reimbursement for retirement of old vehicles:

*Resolved that the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley supports implementation of a five-year pilot project for the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District to incent the retirement and replacement of "high-emitter" or "gross polluting" vehicles owned by low-income families.*

Low-income families are those with household incomes below 225% of the federal poverty level. Under the proposal, low income owners who retire a model year 1985 or older vehicle and acquire a low-emission vehicle would be eligible for a \$2,000 reimbursement for a "high-emitter" vehicle or a \$4,000 reimbursement for a "gross polluter" vehicle. Vehicles would have to be registered in the air basin for the past 36 months and driven on a regular basis. Emission reductions generated by this program would not be used for marketable credits or to offset another entity's emission reduction obligations.

Chairman Grupe noted no objection and the motion passed by consensus.

Attached is the written report submitted by the Air Quality Work Group for consideration by the Partnership Board.

#### Water Quality, Supply, Reliability and Energy Work Group

Dave Zoldoske was introduced by Paul Boyer and reported on behalf of the Water Quality, Supply and Reliability and Energy Work Group. The Work Group title was changed to include the word "energy" because 20% of the state's energy is used to pump water, with 5% of that used for agriculture. Major goals include support for a high quality water supply for growing urban areas in the region while maintaining an adequate supply for agriculture. A build up of

salts in agricultural lands on the west side is a concern, as well as providing for value-added agriculture such as canneries, wineries, cheese making and other food processors.

Questions and discussion of the topic followed.

Attached are the background materials submitted by the Work Group for the discussion.

#### **VIII. Report from the Federal Interagency Task Force**

Rollie Smith spoke on behalf of the Federal Interagency Task Force. He announced that the Task Force will disband at the end of 2006 unless the Congressional Delegation from the Central Valley decides to continue it. A final report will be prepared for the White House regarding the work accomplished. The work begun by the Task Force that relates to economic development, air quality, water, energy and housing will be carried on by the respective agencies in conjunction with the Partnership.

#### **IX. Updates from Designated Liaisons**

Barry Hibbard reported on behalf of the Economic Strategy Panel. The panel is chaired by Secretary Bradshaw and is the integration point for economic development policy at the state level. The panel is currently focusing on the manufacturing value chain and is working to redefine manufacturing in California to include the logistics industry and related technology. The panel's report on manufacturing is due June 30, 2006.

#### **X. Schedule for 2006**

The next meeting will be held April 6 in Kings County and April 7 in Fresno County and will include public forums in both locations as well.

#### **XI. Other Business**

Josh Franco reported that student government representatives from all colleges and universities in the Central Valley were being contacted and invited to attend the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley meeting scheduled for June 2006.

#### **XII. Public Comment**

There were no public comments at this time.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned on April 6 in Bakersfield at 12:30 PM for the Kern County Roundtable Discussion with local elected officials and the Public Forum and reconvened at 8:30 AM on Friday, March 10 in Visalia. The Partnership Board Meeting adjourned at 9:40 AM on Friday, March 10 for the Tulare County Public Forum and subsequent Roundtable Discussion with local elected officials.

**California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley**  
**March 10, 2006**  
**Visalia, California**

**Board Meeting Attendees**

**Board Members Present**

Local Elected Officials

Mayor Alan Autry, City of Fresno  
Councilman Paul Boyer, City of Farmersville  
Councilwoman Marcelyn Buford, City of Hanford  
Supervisor Connie Conway, County of Tulare  
Supervisor Jeff Grover, Stanislaus County  
Supervisor Gary Gilbert, Madera County  
Supervisor Victor Mow, San Joaquin County

Civic Leaders

Ray Dezember, Bakersfield  
Larry Fortune, Fortune Associates  
Fritz Grupe, The Grupe Company  
Coke Hallowell, San Joaquin River Parkway & Conservation Trust  
Jose Rivera, Kaiser Permanente  
Fred Ruiz, Ruiz Foods  
Lorraine Salazar, Sal's Mexican Restaurants

Cabinet Secretaries

Victoria Bradshaw, Secretary, CA Labor and Workforce Development Agency  
Mike Chrisman, Secretary, Resources Agency  
Sunne Wright McPeak, Secretary, Business, Transportation and Housing Agency

Cabinet Designees

Jamie Fall, Labor and Workforce Development Agency  
Trina Gonzalez, Health & Human Services Agency, for Secretary Belshe  
Jonnalee Henderson, Department of Food and Agriculture, for Secretary Kawamura  
Ricardo Soto, Office of Secretary of Education, for Secretary Bersin  
Cindy Tuck, California Environmental Protection Agency

Board Members Not Present

Mayor Michael Amabile, City of Los Banos  
Kim Belshe, Secretary, Health & Human Services Agency  
Councilwoman Susan Benham, City of Bakersfield  
Alan Bersin, Secretary of Education  
Sheila Carroll, Ross F. Carroll, Inc.  
A. G. Kawamura, Secretary, Department of Food & Agriculture  
Rosario Marin, Secretary, State & Consumer Services Agency  
Sharron Thornton, The Grass is Greener Landscape Management



## **Designated Officials**

### Appointed Liaisons

Pete Weber, ANRON International, Fresno, Liaison to the Federal Interagency Task Force

## **Other Key Partners**

### Supporting Agencies

Heidi Arno, Great Valley Center

Mark Keppler, The Maddy Institute, CSU Fresno

Carolyn Lott, Great Valley Center

Mike Lynch, Great Valley Center

Rollie Smith, Operations Specialist, US Department of Housing & Urban Development

Ashley Swearengin, Executive Director, Central California Futures Institute

Jim Tischer, Regional Program Manager, Center for Water Technology

Carol Whiteside, Great Valley Center

## **Other Guests**

### Elected Officials

Assemblyman Juan Arambula

Phil Cox, Board of Supervisors, County of Tulare

Jesus Gamboa, Mayor, City of Visalia

Cameron Hamilton, Council Member, City of Porterville

Allen Ishida, Board of Supervisors, Tulare County

Ren Johnson, Director, Tulare County Office of Education

Pamela Kimball, Council Member, City of Lindsay

Pedro Martinez, Mayor, City of Porterville

Assemblyman Bill Maze, Visalia

Rich Ortega, Mayor, City of Tulare

Steve Worthley, Board of Supervisors, Tulare County

### Community Leaders

Matt Ainley, Civil Engineer, Quad Knopf

Elliott Balch, Assemblyman Arambula's Office

Bill Balsley, General Manager, KVLP 101.5, Visalia

Marge Balsley, KVLP Radio 101.5

Quirino Banuelos, Director, Proteus, Inc.

Ginny Barker, District Director to Assemblyman Bill Maze

Marilyn Barr, Executive Director, CASA, Tulare County

Sandy Beals, Food Bank, Tulare County

Linda Beattie, EDD, Workers Investment Division

Andrew Benelli, Assistant Director, Public Works, City of Visalia

Marylou Berlsery, League of Women Voters

Anne Bernardo, Director, East Tulare County Public Law Library

Julia Blanton, California Department of Food and Agriculture

Sandy Box, Colours in Motion

Victor Box, Colours in Motion  
Penny Bullick, Tulare County Health Services Agency  
Ray Bullock, Tulare County Department of Health  
Aubrey Cairns, Maddy Institute, CSU Fresno  
Carol Cairns, Assistant City Manager, Visalia  
Peter Carey, Self-Help Enterprises  
Jane Carroll, Fresno County Workforce Investment Board  
Sherry Carson, Tulare County Economic Development Corp.  
Brad Caudell, Executive Director, Tulare County Farm Bureau  
Scott Cochran, Tulare County Association of Governments  
Wayne Collins, Director, Farm Services  
Mike Cully, President, Visalia Chamber of Commerce  
Terry Curley, Tulare County Health and Human Services  
Joseph Cusenza, President, Reynen Bardis Communities  
Bill DeLain, Southern CA Edison Company, Tulare Cty.  
John Delmatier, Proteus, Inc.  
Theresa Del Monaca, Visalia Times Delta  
Joe Enea, Government Instructor, College of the Sequoias  
Annie Esperanza, Air Resources Specialist, Sequoia Kings County National Parks  
Renee Ezell, Center for Independent Living, Visalia  
George Finney, Tulare County Association of Governments  
Ken Fisher, CSU Fresno, International Ctr. For Water Technology  
Jeff Forbes, United Way, Tulare County  
Christine Foster, Tulare County Asthma Coalition Care  
Harry Foster, President & CEO, Family Healthcare Network  
Brooke Frost, First Five Tulare County, Children's Health Initiative  
Kyle Goddard, Visalia Chamber of Commerce, Government Affairs Specialist  
Trina Gonzalez, CA Health and Human Services Agency  
Victor Gonzalez, Tulare District Hospital Board  
Don Goodyear, President and Superintendent, College of the Sequoias  
Kathryn Griffith, Center for Independent Living, Visalia  
Brian Haddix, County Administrative Officer, Tulare County  
Joe Hailey, Visalia Unified School District  
Natalie Hanes, Tulare County Workforce Investment Board  
Sharon Herbert, KMS Mechanics, Pixley  
Edith Hernandez, Enecomm  
Ernie Hernandez, United Way of Tulare County  
Annaly Herrera, VHCC, Dinuba  
Ralph Hinds, Executive Director, Dinuba Chamber of Commerce  
Sherry Hubert, City of Exeter, Finance Director  
Angela Huerta-Reyna, Director, Imagine U Children's Museum, Visalia  
Sue Smiley Janecek, Director, Research & Development, San Joaquin Valley College  
Gil Jaramillo, Executive Director, Tulare/Kings County Chamber of Commerce  
Eric Johnson, Director, AT&T  
Ron Johnson, Director, Tulare County Organization for Vocational Education  
Bob Keenan, BIG Coalition  
Carolyn Kehrli, Cutler-Orosi Unified School District

Gary Kunkel, Tulare County Ag Commission  
Sue Lafferty, Kings/Tulare Building Industry Association  
Mike Lane, Self-Help Enterprises, Visalia School Board  
Rikki Leigh, Tulare County Workforce Investment Department  
Mike Lincoln, representing Congressman Radanovich  
Kyle Loreto, Deputy Chief of Staff, Fresno Mayor's Office  
John Madrid, City of Fresno, Mayor's Education Office  
Graciela Martinez, American Friends Service Committee, Farm Labor Program  
Kevin Matteson, Tulare County Office of Education  
Bill Mayerwald, CA Water Service Company, Visalia  
Jennifer McCoun, President & CEO, Tulare Chamber of Commerce  
Olivia Mendoza, Tulare County Workforce Investment Board  
Laurie Mercer, Tulare County Redevelopment Agency  
Michael Miller, City of Tulare Engineering  
Jan Minami, Executive Director, Downtown Visalians  
Stephanie Moen, Project Director, Tulare County Asthma Coalition  
Lali Moheno, Tulare County Hispanic Roundtable  
Betty Morehead, Pixley Chamber of Commerce  
Colby Morrow, Southern California Gas Company  
Judy Nevis, Central Valley Office Director for the Governor  
Patty Norman, Director of Facilities, Visalia Unified School District  
Dean Onojeros, Produce Incorporated  
Rose Ortega, Family Healthcare Network  
Susan Pasquini, Director, Tulare Adult School  
Jason Pausma, Planning Manager, Visalia  
Art Pena, Pena's Disposal  
Raul Pickett, El Futuro Credit Union, Porterville  
Lyle Pines, Dinuba Chamber of Commerce  
Marie Pinto, Tulare Adult School  
Dennis Pollock, Fresno Bee  
Mike Porte, Grubb & Ellis Pearson Commercial Real Estate  
Jason Powells, Reynen Bardis Communities  
Ravi Ramalingam, CA Air Resources Board  
Louise Rambo, KMS Mechanics, Pixley  
Luke Reynolds, Community Affairs Specialist, FDIC  
Carolyn Rhodes, Tulare County Community Services, Employment and Training  
Terry Ricard, Public Health Director, Kings County  
Matt Rogers, representing Assemblywoman Nicole Parra  
Katy Rominger, Tulare County School Board  
Heriberto Rosales, Rural Communities Corporation, West Sacramento  
Frank Ruiz, Tulare County Redevelopment Agency  
Darryl Rutherford, CA Coalition for Rural Housing  
Jessie Ryan, Community Organizer, Campaign for College Opportunity  
Paul Saldana, Tulare County Economic Development Corp.  
Larry Segrue, Architect, Visalia City Planning Commission  
Donnette Silva Carter, President & CEO, Porterville Chamber of Commerce  
Bonnie Simoes, City of Tulare

Jan Smith, Writer  
Joan Sollenberger, Business, Transportation and Housing Agency  
Stan Stein, Tulare County Health Community Services  
Jim Sullins, County Director, UC Cooperative Extension, Tulare County  
Brian Thoburn, Southern CA Edison Company  
Sherry Tietjens, Tulare County Association of Realtors  
Stanley Tom, Valley Small Business Development Corporation  
Teri Van Huss, Sequoia Riverlands Trust  
Randy Wallace, Tulare County Office of Education  
Gary Waller, Visalia Inventory Service  
Bob Williams, Chief of Police, Visalia  
Robert Williams, Chief of Police, City of Visalia  
Linda Womak, City of Porterville Community Development Services  
Elizabeth Wright, Tulare County Association of Governments

Public

Morgan Anjin, Visalia  
Don Beecham, Visalia  
Janet Beecham, Visalia  
Aubrey Cairns, Clovis  
James Chesnut, Visalia  
Wayne Clark, Pixley  
Tyler Eaton, Student, Visalia  
Josh Franco, UC Merced Student  
Mark Fulmer, Visalia  
Bob Green, Visalia  
Walter Green, CSU Fresno Student  
Tracey LaMonica, Visalia  
Phil Mirwald, Visalia  
Marissa Parrinello, UC Merced Student  
Herman Rodriguez, Student, Visalia  
Mary Ruben, Real Estate Investor, Visalia  
D'anne Williamson, Visalia  
Ray Wolf, Visalia